



# 2005 Annual Report



## Message From the Chairman...

The Orangeburg County Conservation District enjoyed a successful year in 2005. Despite budget cuts, we sent three young people to Carolina Coastal Adventure Camp at Moncks Corner in November (see page 5). These young people were invited to a board meeting where they shared what they had learned and enjoyed at camp.

We were able, with our dedicated staff, to continue our programs in schools throughout the county. We now have three events which are moved around the county: Make a Splash with Project WET (held in September), Home Safety (held during Fire Prevention Week) and *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp (held in October). These events would NOT be possible without our dedicated partners, who volunteer their services as presenters for lessons and as support personnel.

In 2005, we reached over 2,000 students and teachers, trained 30 teachers in the use of Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) curricula and touched thousands of Orangeburg County residents with displays and news articles.

2006 will be a challenge. The Conservation job is never done... We look forward to another successful year.

*B. Louise Hughes, Chairman*

<u>Commissioners:</u>				
<b>B. Louise Hughes</b> Chairman	<b>George Ulmer</b> Vice-Chairman	<b>Richard Fralick</b> Secretary	<b>Buddy Felder</b> Treasurer	<b>Kenneth Ott</b> Chaplin
<b>Associate Commissioner:</b> Ewart Irick		<b>Commissioner Emeritus:</b> Robert Polin, Larry Patrick, Judge James C. Williams, Clyde B. Livingston, Fred K. Norris, Jr.		

## Personnel Assisting the District

<b>CONSERVATION DISTRICT</b>	<b>USDA-NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service)</b>
<b>Glenda B. Lewis</b> District Manager	<b>S. Frank Stephens</b> District Conservationist
<b>Diane D. Curlee</b> Education Coordinator	<b>Charles R. Holland</b> Soil Conservationist
	<b>Darryl V. Johnson</b> Soil Conservation Technician
<b>SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)</b> <b>Jonathan Williams</b> Program Coordinator	<b>USDA-NRCS</b> <b>Sudie Thomas</b> Area Wildlife Biologist

All federal, state, and local programs and services provided through the Orangeburg Conservation District & USDA-NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

# USDA-NRCS NEWS

## Four Hole Swamp WRP Wetland Restoration

In 2005 USDA-NRCS began the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) restoration project in the Four Hole Swamp. The purpose of the project is to restore the normal flow pattern in the Four Hole Swamp, which has been altered by many years of logging activity. Conditions in the swamp created the need to construct an extensive network of earthen logging roads during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These logging roads blocked or restricted the normal flow through portions of the swamp from SC Highway 210 to the intersection of Interstates 95 and 26.

The restoration is being accomplished by breaking the logging roads at key points in the swamp, removing old pipes and installing rock fords. When completed, the project will help restore 3,000 acres of valuable wetlands in Orangeburg County.



**More  
Pictures of  
Restoration**

**Above: Before**

**Right: After**



## Small Farmer Initiative

In 2005, USDA-NRCS launched the Small Farmer Initiative to provide cost-share assistance for producers with 100 acres or less of cropland. The intent of the program was to assist small farmers who either have historically not participated in USDA cost-share programs or did not rank high enough to be funded in previous program sign ups. The key resource concerns addressed by the Small Farmer Initiative were: surface water quality, water quantity, and soil quality.

The Orangeburg Field Office was one of the leading offices in South Carolina for the initiative; we received 28 applications, funded 8 applications and obligated \$78,949 in cost-share assistance. The program opened opportunities to assist small scale and limited resource farmers who have not traditionally accessed USDA services.

## Holly Hill Watershed, Phase 2

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service entered a project agreement with Orangeburg County in September 2005 for Phase 2 of the Holly Hill Watershed Flood Prevention Project. The project, in addition to Phase 1 (completed in 2002), will provide additional flood protection for the Town of Holly Hill and the surrounding area. Through the agreement Orangeburg County will serve as the contracting agent for the project, which will give more local control for the project and shorten the time required for project completion.

Phase 2 consists of over 5 miles of flood prevention channel improvements in and surrounding Holly Hill. The USDA-NRCS will provide cost-share funds, engineering survey and design and installation assistance for Phase 2 from its PL-566, Small Watershed Project program. The estimated cost for Phase 2 of the project exceeds \$900,000.00. Construction of the project is expected to begin in Spring 2006.

## Orangeburg Soil & Water Conservation District Award Recipients at the Fall Gathering

The Orangeburg Conservation District recognized **T.F. (Fred) Riley, III** as the **2005 Cooperator of the Year** at its Fall Gathering on November 17, 2005, for his long-standing commitment to sound conservation and good stewardship of the land.

Mr. Riley continued his family's long farming tradition in Orangeburg County. He owns and operates a diverse row crop farming operation in the Four Hole Community. Along with help from family members, he manages approximately 500 acres, his crop rotation includes: cotton, soybeans, corn and peanuts.

Through the years Mr. Riley has been proactive in using sound conservation treatment measures on his farm. He has always recognized the need to increase crop yields, control input costs and take care of the land at the same time. His good management skills have served him well during the good and bad years on the farm.

Mr. Riley has also been an active participant in the USDA conservation programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service through the Orangeburg Conservation District. Through the years he has utilized many beneficial conservation practices on his farm, including: field borders, filter strips, cover crops, crop residue management, strip-till planting and center pivot irrigation system conversion.

Other recognitions given at the Fall Gathering were: Plaques given to Sheridan Elementary School for hosting *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp, to Orangeburg Preparatory School (Lower Campus) for hosting Make a Splash and to the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Associate Degree Nurse Program students and faculty for their help with these events.



Pictured from Left to Right: Sheridan Elementary School was represented by: Mr. Jason Walker, Mr. Xennie Weeks, Principal and Ms. Kathy Felder. The plaque was presented by Mrs. B. Louise Hughes.



These were a few of the student nurses from O-C Technical College at Make a Splash. They made sure the presenters had plenty of water. Some of the students presented lessons or assisted instructors.

### + ICE Your Cell Phones+

+Paramedics are using victim's cell phones to discover clues to a person's identity. You can make their jobs easier with a simple idea that they are trying to get everyone to adopt: ICE.

+ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. Simply add an entry in the contacts list of your cell phone under ICE with the name and phone number of the person that the emergency services should call on your behalf, you can save them a lot of time and have your loved ones contacted quickly. It only takes a few moments of your time to do.

+Paramedics know what ICE means and they look for it immediately. ICE you cell phone today.



## 2005 Affiliate Members

William DeLorme  
George David Shuler  
Fogle Brothers Construction  
Orangeburg Plumbing  
Prichard, Salley & Associates  
Orangeburg Pharmacy  
G.W. Berry Realty  
Robert & Anne Polin  
Engineering Resources Corp.  
Smith-Parcell Family  
John L. Gramling  
Timothy Prezzy  
S.C. Safety Co.  
Bruce Proctor  
StarRedi Mix  
Crum Farms  
Sanders Farm

Louise & Mason Hughes  
Charles O. Farnum, III  
Bear Spring Farm  
Millwood Farms  
Richard & Lynn Fralick  
Carolina Fresh Farms  
Mixon Seed Company  
Kirby Brown & Sons  
Jameson Farms  
E.H. Hardy  
J.A. Williamson  
Orangeburg Milling  
Kenneth Ott  
Rotema Farms  
McPherson Farm  
Ewart Irick  
Farmers & Merchant Bank of SC

## Top Supporter 2005 — Waste Management

Triple A Farms  
Edisto Electric Coop.  
Walter L. Dantzler  
Orangeburg National Bank  
Tommy Stillinger  
Shady Grove  
R. Barry Hutto Farm  
Okonite  
TriCounty Electric  
James L. Townsend, Jr.  
George & Sirvasteen Ulmer  
Clyde Livingston  
James Williams  
Jim Mullis  
Brad, Tracey & Skyler Hutto  
Firefighters Foundation  
Horne Foundation

# 2006 CALENDAR

## JANUARY

3-6 State Conference  
(Jan.-March) Call for info on  
SC Institute for  
Natural Resource Conservation  
11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders 2006  
(scholarship opportunity)

## FEBRUARY

Jan. 29-Feb. 2 NACD Annual  
Meeting—Houston, TX  
ANNUAL REPORT Completed

## MARCH

15<sup>th</sup> Scholarship deadline  
SC Chapter Soil & Water Society  
EEASC Spring Conference  
Begins March 31  
Santee State Park, Santee



## APRIL

EEASC Spring Conference  
Ends April 1  
Santee State Park, Santee  
Ethics Forms Deadline  
22 Earth Day  
22-30 National Wildlife Week  
28 National Arbor Day  
28-30 Rose Festival  
30 Soil Stewardship Week begins

## MAY

7 Soil Stewardship Week Ends  
12 SC Envirothon Competition

## JUNE

19-23 Lander University  
SC Institute for Natural Resource  
Conservation  
(scholarship opportunity)  
21 Action Today  
(SCDHEC & SC Energy Office)  
Summer Teacher Workshop

## JULY

Preparing for teacher workshops,  
In-services, and school events.  
SENACD Meeting

## AUGUST

Cultural Awareness Day  
School Year Begins  
Deliver promotional materials to  
Schools  
Call about info on  
Carolina Coastal Adventure  
(9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Graders)

## SEPTEMBER

Cooperate Sponsor of :  
9 Safe Kids Super Saturday  
22 Make A Splash

## OCTOBER

1-8 Orangeburg County Fair  
8-14 Fire Prevention Week  
Earth Science Week  
*Progressive Farmer*  
Farm Safety Day Camp  
Home Safety Day Camp

## NOVEMBER

7-8 SECDEA Annual Meeting  
Pigeon Forge  
Annual Fall Gathering

## DECEMBER

1 SC Arbor Day



## District Awarded SCACD Excellence in Conservation

The Orangeburg Conservation District received the Excellence in Conservation Award at the South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts (SCACD) Annual Conference held in Myrtle Beach January 3-6. The award was for the education program Make A Splash with Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). This event has been coordinated in Orangeburg County for the past six years by Diane Curlee, Education Coordinator of the Orangeburg Conservation District.

The district has held the event at six different schools in the county. As a trained Project WET facilitator by the SC DNR, Curlee has held in-service training in the use of the Project WET Curriculum for the teachers at the hosting schools. The teachers attending the in-service receive the Project WET Curriculum and other materials that facilitate the teaching of water conservation. The curriculum covers disciplines from Art, Language Arts, Physical Education, Reading, Science, and Social Studies. The event also uses the activities in the curriculum to teach water conservation issues.

These events have reached an average of 200 students each year. An average of 30 teachers have received Project WET curriculum training and an average of 8 teachers have attended the Make A Splash event with their classes each year. Over the past six years 1,200 students and 180 teachers have used the activities to learn more about water conservation issues. We are not just holding an event; we are training teachers to continue using activities that teach students year after year that there is a limited supply of fresh, clean drinking water on our planet. It is up to each of us to use it wisely.



### Carolina Coastal Adventure is one weekend that can change directions for a lifetime.

Mary Beth Sisk and Rene' Durr from Orangeburg Christian Academy and Michael Mann from O-W High School represented the Orangeburg Conservation District at the 2005 camp. This camp is held in October or November each year for 9th and 10th grade students. Applications for the 2006 camp will be available from schools and our office in August.

Orangeburg County Farm Bureau Women's Auxiliary provided ice cream sandwiches for *Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp* participants at Sheridan Elementary School October 28, 2005.

The ice cream was the "icing on the cake" for the 3rd-5th graders that participated in the day camp. The six morning sessions were on fire safety, sun safety, animal safety, gun safety, food safety, and weather safety. In the afternoon the students attended the "Brain Minders" Puppet Show sponsored by the Pilot Club of Orangeburg and individually fitted with bicycle helmets provided by O-B-C Safe Kids of which the Conservation District is a Cooperate Sponsor.



#### *Progressive Farmer Farm Safety Day Camp @ Sheridan Elementary*

Third Graders at Vance-Providence Elementary School help Sparc and Aash spread the word about Home Safety. The Conservation District, Vance-Providence Volunteer Fire Department, Vance-Providence Elementary School and Jimmy Jay Production joined together to sponsor the first annual event at Vance-Providence Elementary School during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15, 2005.

#### 1st Annual Home Safety Day @ Vance –Providence Elementary





**THE FUNCTION OF THE  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT  
TO TAKE AVAILABLE  
TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND  
EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES,  
WHATEVER THEIR SOURCE,  
AND FOCUS OR  
COORDINATE THEM SO THAT  
THEY MEET THE NEEDS  
OF THE LOCAL LAND USER  
FOR CONSERVATION OF SOIL,  
WATER AND  
RELATED RESOURCES.**

## **Orangeburg Soil and Water Conservation District**

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*Every Day Is Earth Day*

*Conservation                      Development  
Self-government*

The Orangeburg SWCD Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except July and December. The meetings are open to the public. The meetings are held in the Orangeburg County Agricultural Building in Room 205.

